Top 20 Leadership Books

L & D combed through a variety of "Best" and "Top" website lists of highly recommended leadership books, encompassing posts ranging from *INC, CEO*, the *Washington Post* and *Forbes* to blogs and *Good Reads*.

The top 20 list below is culled from more than 50 different suggested titles. Of unrepeated book titles, the topic of authenticity tended to be the most common theme (including titles e.g., *Delivering Happiness: A Path to Profits, Passion and Purpose*, Hsieh; *True North*: *Discover Your Authentic Leadership*, George; *Good Work*, Gardner, et. al.; *On Becoming a Servant Leader*, Greenleaf; and *Emotional Intelligence*, Goleman).

The top 20 most cited/repeated titles:

The top 3 by 2:1 margins:

1. *On Becoming a Leader*, Warren Bennis
2. The *Leadership Challenge*, James Kouses and Barry Posner
3. *21 Irrefutable Rule of Leaderships,* John Maxwell comes in third by sheer volume of titles (additionally in the mix, *Developing the Leader Within You* and *Five Levels of Leadership*)

4. *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Steven Covey (and additionally in the mix *Speed of Trust* and *Principled-Centered Leadership*)
5. *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, Dale Carnegie
6. *Never Give In, Speeches by* Winston Churchill
7. *Drive*, Daniel Pink
8. *Good to Great*, Jim Collins
9. *Primal Leadership*, Daniel Goleman
10. *Who Moved My Cheese*, Spencer Johnson
11. *The Essential Wooden*, John Wooden
12. 5th century meets 21st century, a dichotomous tie: *Art of War*, Sun Tzu/*Anatomy of Peace,* Arbinger Institute

And 13-19 tied, listed in alpha order by author:

13. *Leadership and Deception*, Arbinger Institute
14. *One Minute Manager*, Kenneth Blanchard
15. *Questions of Character*: Illuminating the Heart of leadership Through Literature, Joseph Badaracco
16. *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, Doris Kearns Goodwin
17. *Endurance: Shakelton's Incredible Voyage*, Alfred Lansing
18. *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*, Patrick Lencioni
19. *1st 90 Days*, Michael Watkins
20. Tied to bookend the list: *It's Your Ship*, D. Michael Abrashoff *Essential Drucker*, Peter Drucker; *Leading Change*, John Kotter.

For the Additional Titles: List of Web Sources Used for This Compilation

http://**askthemanager**.com/2008/07/the-top-ten-leadership-books-of-all-time/

http://www.**ceo**.com/leadership_and_management/the-23-best-leadership-books-of-all-time/

http://**conantleadership**.com/7-best-leadership-books-ever/

http://www.**examiner**.com/article/top-20-leadership-books-what-to-give-first-to-a-new-manager

https://www.**goodreads**.com/list/show/16254.The_Best_Business_and_Leadership_Books

http://www.**headheartbrain**.com/top-twenty-leadership-books/

http://www.**inc**.com/ss/best-leadership-books-of-all-time

http://www.**forbes**.com/sites/85broads/2013/12/17/leadership-books-to-put-under-the-tree/

http://www.**leadershipnow**.com/leadershop/leadership_classics.html

http://**letsgrowleaders**.com/learning-development/best-leadership-books-for-new-leaders/

http://www.**mattmorris**.com/personal-development-2/top-10-leadership-books-time/

http://**100bestbiz.com**/more-on-the-100-best/

http://**professorthink**.wordpress.com/2012/12/04/the-professors-picks-top-10-leadership-books/

http://blog.**readytomanage.com**/top-20-books-on-leadership-and-management/

http://**sourcesofinsight**.com/leadership-books/

http://views.**washingtonpost**.com/leadership/leadership_playlist/2009/02/the-10-best-leadership-books-of-all-time.html